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MIGRATORY BIRD  
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REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3807**

July 8, 2003

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Mr. John P. Suarez  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Environmental Protection Agency  
2201 A, Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Suarez:

On Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, Congressman Solomon Ortiz and I will co-chair a small conference with Members of Congress, key federal agencies, and industry representatives to discuss the issue of domestic ship disposal. Given the Environmental Protection Agency's role in this issue, and the large backlog of former Navy vessels awaiting disposal, I would request your participation in this round table discussion.

I believe this round table discussion will provide an important opportunity for Members of Congress and representatives from the domestic ship disposal industry to discuss the future of the domestic ship disposal industry with MARAD, the U.S. Navy and the Environmental Protection Agency, which recently provided MARAD with a waiver to export former military vessels overseas for scrapping.

My hope is that we can gain some insight into MARAD's recent decision to export these vessels overseas, the reasoning behind it, and the prospect for scrapping vessels domestically in the United States, creating jobs and economic development opportunities in some of our nation's distressed shipyards. I look forward to your participation in what I believe is an extremely important discussion.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CURT WELDON  
Member of Congress